

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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FOLLOWING WARSAW 6353 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW
COPENHAGEN CASABLANCA MEXICO TOKYO SEOUL TAIPEI SEPT. 26,
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 6353

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PL
SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF U-POLISH PACIFIC COAST FISHERIES
AGREEMENT

REF STATE 226375 WARSAW 6335

1. DCM WAS CALLED IN SEPTEMBER 26 BY PIETRASZEK, VICE MINISTER
OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME AFFAIRS, TO RECEIVE ANSWER TO OUR
DEMARCHE OF PREVIOUS DAY. PIETRASZEK SAID INSTRUCTIONS HAD
BEEN SENT TO THE ONLY POLISH FISHING VESSEL REMAINING OFF
UNITED STATES SHORES, THE GRUNWALD, TO SET SAIL FOR POLAND
BEFORE SEPTEMBER 29. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE POLISH CATCH
OF HAKE IN THE WATERS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT
EXCEED 40,000 TONS SO FAR IN 1975. HE DISAGREED VIGOROUSLY
WITH OUR ASSERTION THAT ARTICLE 3, PARAGRAPH I OF THE AGREE-
MENT WAS INTENDED TO COVER WATERS OFF THE CANDIAN COAST.
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HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE WORDING OF THIS ARTICLE MIGHT BE

MISLEADING BUT SAID THAT, IN THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS, HE HAD SUGGESTED THE ADDITION ON THE PHRASE "OFF THE UNITED STATES COAST" IN THIS PARAGRAPH, AND HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT SUCH AN ADDITION WAS NOT NECESSARY SINCE THE TITLE OF THE AGREEMENT ITSELF MADE IT PLAIN THAT IT REFERRED ONLY TO WATERS OFF THE UNITED STATES COAST. HE SAID THAT, AS WE KNEW, THE POLES DO NOT HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH CANADA AND ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO KEEP STATISTICS ON THEIR CATCH OFF THE CANADIAN COAST. THEY INTENDED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA IN THE LAST 10 DAYS OF NOVEMBER AND HE HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT TO THIS EFFECT WITH THE CANADIAN FISHING MINISTER ON SEPTEMBER 17, OF WHICH HE WOULD SEND THE EMBASSY A COPY. IN FURTHER SUPPORT OF HIS VIEW, MINISTER PIETRASZEK SAID THAT THE 1974 HAKE CATCH OF 44,300 TONS, WHICH WAS BEING USED AS A BASIS FOR LIMITING THE 1975 CATCH, WAS THE FIGURE FOR HAKE TAKEN OFF THE UNITED STATES COAST IN 1974. CONSEQUENTLY, HE DID NOT SEE HOW WE COULD MAINTAIN THAT THIS BASE FIGURE SHOULD NOW BE APPLIED TO THE POLISH CATCH FOR 1975 OFF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN COASTS COMBINED.

2. DCM POINTED OUT REPEATEDLY THAT THE WORDING OF ARTICLE 3, PARAGRAPH I WAS UNIQUE IN THE AGREEMENT, BEING THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THE PHRASE "OFF THE UNITED STATES COAST" DID NOT APPEAR. OUR INFORMATION WAS THAT BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED THAT THIS PARAGRAPH WOULD OBLIGATE THE POLES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC AREA. PIETRASZEK STOUTLY DENIED ON EACH OCCASION THAT THERE WAS ANY SUCH UNDERSTANDING. HE SAID THAT A PART OF THE POLISH FLEET OF APPROXIMATELY 10 VESSELS, WHICH IS NOW STATIONED OFF BRITISH COLUMBIA, WILL BEGIN MOVING IN A WESTWARD DIRECTION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TOWARD RUSSIAN WATERS. THE CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE REMAINDER OF THE FLEET WILL CONTINUE FISHING OFF BRITISH COLUMBIA. PIETRASZEK SAID THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CANADA, THE FISHING-BOATS KIPPERS ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO KEEP CAREFUL STATISTICS OF THEIR CATCH OFF THE CANADIAN COAST, AND HE COULD NOT, THEREFORE, SAY WHETHER OUR ESTIMATE OF A TOTAL CATCH OF 70,000 TONS SO FAR IN 1975 WAS AN ACCURATE ONE.

3. PIETRASZEK SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY SEND MR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RYSZARD MAY, THE DIRECTOR OF THE SEA FISHERIES INSTITUTE IN GYDNIA, TO THE UNITED STATES WITH ALL AVAILABLE STATISTICS ON THE POLISH CATCH OFF THE UNITED STATES COAST. HE ASKED WHETHER MR. MAY SHOULD GO TO SEATTLE OR WASHINGTON. DCM REPLIED THAT WE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE A VISA FOR MR. MAY AND WOULD INQUIRE CONCERNING HIS PROPER DESTINATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. COMMENT: PIETRASZEK BEGAN THE CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING HIS SURPRISE THAT DIFFICULTIES HAD ARISEN OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE POLISH FLEET IN THE PACIFIC. HE SAID HE HAD BELIEVED, UNTIL YESTERDAY, THAT THINGS WERE GOING SMOOTHLY. HE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED POLAND'S INTENTION TO LIVE UP TO THE AGREEMENT AND DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE ITS EXTENSION. HOWEVER, PIETRASZEK WAS INSISTENT ON THE POINT THAT ARTICLE 3, PARAGRAPH 1 DOES NOT AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO APPLY TO WATERS OFF THE COAST OF CANADA. LACKING ANY DETAILED RECORD OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THIS POINT OTHER THAN TO STATE THAT THE POLISHES SEEM SINCE E IN UPHOLDING THEIR POSITION. THE CRUX OF OUR DISAGREEMENT APPEARS TO US TO BE THE QUESTION OF THE AREA OF FISHERIES COVERED BY THE 1974 FIGURE OF 44,300 TONS. DAVIES KISSINGER

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